

CLAIMS:

1. A camera comprising a main body defining a pair of film chambers on opposite sides of an exposure opening comprising a first chamber for receiving a film cassette having a central spool to which film is secured and a second chamber for receiving a second film container into which film is pre-wound prior to use, a drive shaft having an end which extends into the first chamber for engaging the spool, and an electric motor operably connected to the drive shaft to drive the drive shaft in one direction.
2. A camera according to claim 1 further comprising a shutter mechanism including a movable shutter blade, and a shutter release assembly having a user-accessible shutter button, and further comprising switch means to control operation of the motor, the switch means being controlled by the shutter release assembly.
3. A camera according to claim 2 wherein the shutter release assembly has a primed position from which depression of the shutter button activates the shutter blade, and a discharged position subsequent to depression of shutter button, the switch means and shutter release assembly being arranged to activate the motor on depression of the shutter

button and subsequent release.

4. A camera according to claim 3 wherein the switch means and shutter release assembly is arranged to de-activate the motor on movement of the shutter release assembly from the discharged condition back to the primed position.

5. A camera according to claim 2 wherein the switch means comprises first and second metallic spring contacts disposed to be separated in the primed position.

6. A camera according to claim 5 wherein the shutter release assembly and first and second spring contacts are arranged to maintain the contacts separated after discharge of the shutter until the shutter button is released, at which point they engage.

7. A camera according to claim 2 wherein the shutter release assembly comprises a movable shutter release lever arranged between the shutter button and the shutter blade, which holds the first and second spring contacts apart in the primed position.

8. A camera according to claim 7 wherein the second spring contact vertically overlies the first spring contact, wherein the shutter release lever is arranged to be depressible through the action of the shutter button against the action of resilient

means, and to return to an upward position on return to the primed position, the shutter button also acting on the first spring contact to depress this on depression of the shutter button, and the second spring contact being downwardly biased and abutting the shutter release lever in the primed position, whereby electrical contact is made after depression and subsequent release of the shutter button.

9. A camera according to claim 8 further comprising an actuating lever disposed between the shutter button and the first spring contact and the shutter release lever whereby depression of the shutter button causes depression of the first spring contact, and of the shutter release lever.

10. A camera according to claim 9 wherein the shutter release lever is mounted for rotation about a vertical axis and one end of the lever is adapted to strike the shutter blade on rotation, and the other end of which is acted on by a rotary cam driven to rotate by advancement of the film.

11. A camera according to claim 10 wherein the rotary cam comprises an angular cutout region defining at one edge thereof an abutment surface, and a circumferential cam surface extending between those opposite edges defining the cutout from a surface close to the cam axis to a surface more distant

therefrom which connects to said abutment surface, said other end of the shutter release lever abutting the abutment surface in the primed position, and as the film is advanced subsequent to shutter release riding up the cam surface to rotate the shutter release lever back towards the primed position, the shutter release lever disengaging from the cam when the cutout is reached and being urged vertically against the abutment surface under the action of its return spring.

12. A camera according to claim 8 wherein a third electrical contact is provided spaced from and overlying the second spring contact and connected to the opposite side of the motor whereby electrical connection between the second and third contacts provides an electrical short across the motor, the shutter release lever forcing the second contact against the third as the shutter release lever moves up to the primed position.

13. A camera according to claim 1 further comprising a film sensing switch connected in series with the motor which serves to disable the motor in the absence of a loaded film.

14. A camera according to claim 1 in combination with a film assembly comprising a standard film cassette having a central spool to which film is secured and

a second film container within which the majority of the film is wound.

- 5 15. A camera comprising a main body defining a pair of film chambers on opposite sides of an exposure opening comprising a first chamber for receiving a film cassette having a central spool to which film is secured and a second chamber for containing film pre-wound therein prior to use, a drive shaft having an end which extends into the first chamber for
10 engaging the spool, and an electric motor disposed between the first and second chambers and operably connected to the drive shaft to drive the shaft in one direction.
- 15 16. A camera according to claim 15 wherein the electric motor is connected to the drive shaft through a gear train.
- 20 17. A camera comprising a main body defining a pair of film chambers on opposite sides of an exposure opening comprising a first chamber for receiving a film cassette having a central spool to which film is secured and a second chamber for containing film pre-wound therein prior to use, and a rear cover removable from the main body to expose the film chambers, a rotably mounted film counter operably
25 connected to drive means which, in use, engage the film whereby the film counter is rotably driven on

film advancement, the film counter comprising a circular member with peripheral teeth and including a spring to urge the counter towards a re-set position, the film advancement rotating the film counter against the action of the spring, and wherein ratchet means engage the film counter to ensure its rotation in one direction only on film advancement.

18. A camera according to claim 17 wherein the ratchet means comprises a resilient member extending from the rear cover and urged against the counter wheel, whereby on opening of the rear cover the ratchet means is disengaged allowing counter wheel to rotate under the action of its spring to its re-set position.

19. A camera comprising:

a main body defining a pair of film chambers on opposite sides of an exposure opening comprising a first chamber for receiving a film cassette having a central spool to which film is secured and a second chamber for receiving a second film container into which film is pre-wound prior to use,

a drive shaft having an end which extends into the first chamber for engaging the spool,

an electric motor operably connected to the drive shaft to drive the drive shaft in one direction,

a shutter mechanism including a movable shutter blade,

a shutter release assembly having a user-accessible shutter button which acts on a shutter release lever which in turn acts on the shutter blade, and having a primed position wherein depression of the shutter button activates the shutter and a discharged position,

motor control switch means comprising first and second spring contacts, the second contact overlying the first and being spaced therefrom in the primed position, the shutter release lever being arranged to be depressible through the action of the shutter button against the action of a return spring, and to return to an upward position on return to the primed position, the shutter button also acting on the first spring contact to depress this on depression of the shutter button, and the second spring contact being downwardly biased and abutting the shutter release lever in the primed position, whereby electrical contact is made after depression and subsequent release of the shutter button.